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the students, or Nancy. It was far after "lights out" when the gaiety at the Red Cross House was silent and the revelers wandered back to quarters and to bed, and certainly it will be many years before the students of the Army School of Nursing at Camp Grant forget their first military Christmas.

Army School of Nursing, Camp Grant, Illinois.

TWO STUDENTS.

HEROIC WORK OF ARMY NURSES

The Superintendent of the Training School of the New York Post Graduate Hospital sends word of the recommendation for citation and honors of two graduates of that school, Bertha Cornwall, class of 1899, and Ida M. Ferguson, class of 1911. The commanding officer wrote of them: "Bertha Cornwall * * * remained on duty in the operating room on October 8, 1918, when the hospital was being shelled, which shelling lasted twelve hours. Miss Cornwall refused to leave her post of duty, although the operating room was several times showered with fragments of bursting shells. By this courageous conduct she assisted at considerable risk of her own life in saving the lives of a number of wounded soldiers and by the example she set, the hospital was enabled to function steadily under shell fire."

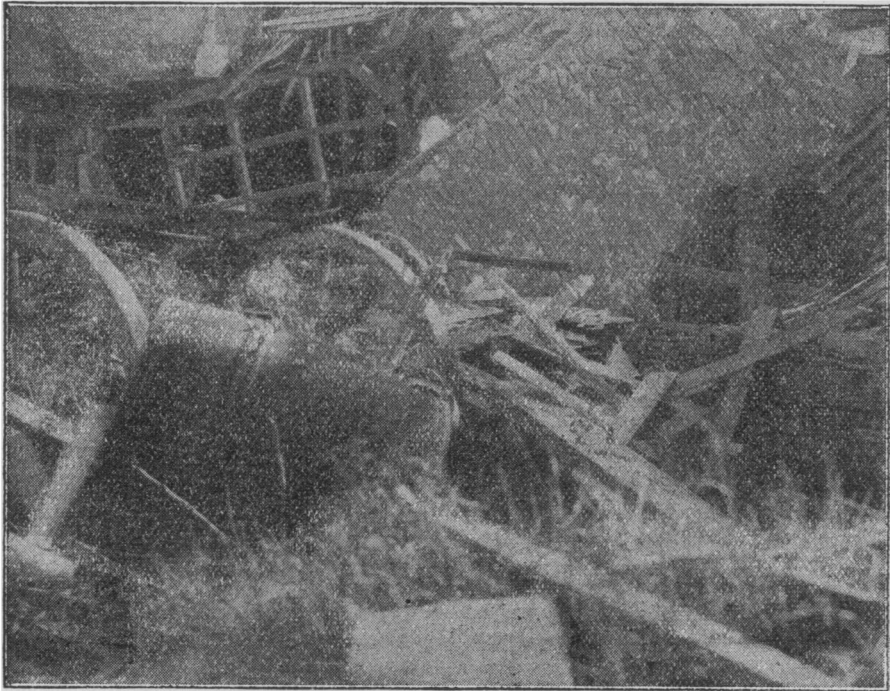
"Ida M. Ferguson * * * displayed great courage at Choppy, France, on October 8, 1918, when the hospital was shelled for an entire day. Miss Ferguson remained constantly at her post of duty in the operating room, which was repeatedly showered with fragments of bursting shells. By this bravery, risking her own life, she aided in saving the lives of several wounded men."

A physician with whom they were associated, wrote: "Miss Cornwall and Miss Ferguson were attached to this surgical team which was sent to the famous First American Division in April. To this day there is nothing on record to explain how nurses ever reached this advanced zone, but the fact remains that they followed the Gypsy Division in its history-making days through Amiens, Cantigny, Soissons, Chateau-Thierry, St. Mihiel, the Argonne, etc. For seven months they lived under unbelievable hardships and dangers. Day after day and night after night they traveled by motor truck train, following the lines almost from the sea to Alsace. Their food was 'hard tack,' 'bully beef,' and 'monkey meat,' and their bed any convenient building, hay stack, or often, open fields and woods. Sometimes, in days of stress, there was no stop for sleep, which meant drowsing away all night on the cold, wet seat of an army truck, dashing madly through the darkness with every light 'doused.' At the end of each trip they slaved for long hours at an operating table and when completely exhausted strove to snatch such sleep as the Boche shells, gas and bombs would permit. Added to the stress of this routine work, came the added menace, always present, of these high explosives and gas shells, aerial bombs and machine guns. And through it all never a murmur or complaint did I hear from them."

COPY OF A PERSONAL LETTER FROM FRANCE

Dear ———: Wonder of wonders, the box sent last Christmas with the plum puddings, malted milk and jam has turned up at last. We have sampled a plum pudding and they are wonderful. The rest we will keep for Christmas or to celebrate our victory, if we are here for Christmas. The jam had nearly all leaked out, much to our sorrow, but the malted milk was intact. You would have been amused if you could have seen me opening the box with a German sword for a chisel and a flat-iron for a hammer. I was making such a noise that I did

not hear the Boche coming until a bomb nearly shook down the remains of our house. * * * We have moved again, Miss G., and I came in, in advance, while the other three stayed with the Grand Blesses at Voyennes. They will join us just as soon as they can evacuate the patients they have. Just think we have crossed the Hindenberg line and are at St. Q. The Germans were here not a week ago. It makes one heartsick to see the desolation and devastation. What they were not able to take away, they have blown up or hacked up or destroyed in some way. We go from house to house collecting odd bits of furniture and dishes to make our place habitable. The house is the best we have ever had, for



Our Home at Voyennes

the roof is intact. Almost all the doors and windows are gone, but we are used to that. We five nurses are the only women in all this district, but we are always so busy that we don't have time to think of the strangeness of it all. When we were at Quesnel, we met some English officers on the way to the hospital one day; they were much surprised to hear us speak English. One of them said: 'I wish you would stop a minute until we get a good look at you. We haven't seen any women for such a long time, the very sight of you cheers us up and makes us feel more civilized,' and we are all old maids, every one of us, the youngest is 33, and we all look war-worn and bedraggled. We have to do our own washing and that is an awful trial. I send as much as possible to Paris by post, but am obliged to do a certain amount myself. When I think of the snow white linen at your house, I have a very great respect for the laundress. I never knew how hard it was to get out spots. * * * Orders to move again, so I

must run. Will try and write soon again. The news is glorious and I think we shall have peace by Christmas—at least no more fighting. My love to you all and many thanks for the many wonderful things you have sent us.

Graduate of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York

A. S. W.

HOSPITALITY TO ARMY NURSES

Dear Editor: One of my duties, self-imposed, as a Home Defense Nurse has been to make the Army nurses with whom I come in contact a little happier and I wish to pay a tribute to the real unselfishness of this body of women. With few exceptions they are strangers to each other in a strange city, their work is new and they must adjust themselves to it and to new surroundings; their comforts are few and yet the complaints are fewer. It takes little to give them pleasure and they are all so appreciative. An auto ride after the day's work is done is a real treat, a dinner or lunch in a home means much to them, to meet the right kind of people in their own homes helps to deaden the homesickness they all experience. These little attentions by the people of a city will mean that the nurses will always remember that city with kind thoughts. The pleasure of the hosts is also great.

Texas

A. L. D.

EIGHT-HOUR SYSTEM IN A 200-BED HOSPITAL

Dear Editor: In the Crouse-Irving Hospital, Syracuse, N. Y., the following plan for an eight-hour day for nurses in training has been in operation for a year and a half, and has proved satisfactory to patients, nurses, and the hospital. The day nurses have an eight-hour day, for a total of forty-eight hours a week; the night nurses, a seven-hour night for seven nights, making a total of forty-nine hours a week. On five days each week, the day nurses work from 7 a. m. to 7 p. m., with four hours off duty for rest, meals, and classes. During the other two days, one of which is Sunday, they are given one day's time. It has been found best to award this time in two parts, two and a half hours off duty being given on Sunday, and five and a half hours on some other day. On Sunday each nurse works five and a half hours, instead of eight, and on some other day in the week, two and a half, instead of eight. On this day she works from 7 a. m. to 9.30 a. m., and has the balance of the day off duty. Supply-room nurses go on the floors during the week, and operating-room nurses on Sunday, to meet any extra requirements. Maternity and operating-room nurses are called on duty when needed. Night nurses are divided into two groups, one of which is on duty from 5.30 p. m. to 12.30 a. m., and the other from 12.30 a. m. to 7.30 a. m. An emergency night nurse works from 7 p. m. to 2 a. m., her duties being to prepare a hot midnight dinner for the night nurses, and to relieve wherever necessary. Nurses of the first group eat at 12.30 a. m., and the second group at midnight. Whenever it is desirable to put pupil nurses on special duty, they are given a twelve-hour shift, either by day or night, and are credited with time and a half. Crouse-Irving is a hospital of two hundred beds, and during last year has had an average of one hundred and fifty patients and seventy-five pupil nurses. The year's experience proves that a general hospital can successfully use the eight-hour system, with the above proportion of nurses and patients. It is doubtful whether any more day nurses are required than under the old system, but two night shifts require twice as many as the previous twelve-hour plan. These two shifts, however, cover fourteen hours instead of twelve, and give very material aid to the day nurses, assisting with much of the work after 5.30 p. m. and